

REMARKS

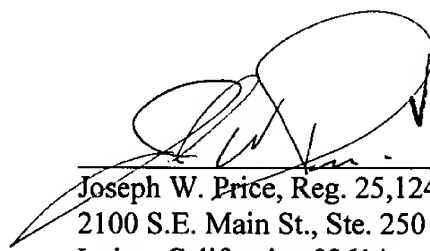
The amendments to the specification, claims and newly drafted Claims 111-130 are in accordance with a Rule 34 Amendment submitted during the prosecution of the International Application and also to remove multiple dependencies.

For the Examiner's convenience, replacement pages indicating the changes to the specification are attached as pages 4 and 4/1, 5, 8, 9 and 9/1.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview will help further the prosecution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the listed telephone number.

Very truly yours,

PRICE AND GESS



Joseph W. Price, Reg. 25,124
2100 S.E. Main St., Ste. 250
Irvine, California 92614
949/261-8433

09934095 082401

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The third and fourth paragraphs on page 4 have been amended as follows:

In order to achieve the above object, a PDP manufacturing process is performed in the following way. First, a front plate and a back plate, on at least one of which discharge electrodes have been arranged and on at least one of whose inner surfaces a phosphor layer has been formed are sealed together so that an inner space is formed between them. Then an aging process in which a required discharge voltage is applied to the discharge electrodes [takes place] is performed. The aging process includes an [evacuating process, in which discharge gas is evacuated from the inner space.

Here, the aging process also includes an introducing process, in which gas is newly introduced into the inner space from the outside.] introducing process in which a discharge gas with a partial steam pressure of 15 Torr or less is newly introduced into the inner space from the outside and an evacuating process, in which discharge gas is evacuated from the inner space. By performing the introducing process together with the evacuating process, discharge gas can be circulated continuously or intermittently through the inner space, while a required discharge voltage is applied to the discharge electrodes, thereby enabling discharge to be produced.

Furthermore, a PDP manufacturing process may be performed in the following way. First, a front plate and a back plate, on at least one of which discharge electrodes have been arranged and on at least one of whose inner surfaces a phosphor layer has been formed are sealed together so that an inner space is formed between them. Then an aging process in which a required discharge voltage is applied to the discharge electrodes is performed. The aging process includes an introducing

process in which a discharge gas with a partial steam pressure of 15 Torr or less is newly introduced into the inner space from the outside and an evacuating process, in which discharge gas is evacuated from the inner space. The discharge generated when a required discharge voltage is applied to the discharge electrodes is divided into a plurality of discharge periods. By performing the introducing and evacuating processes in the intervals between the discharge periods, discharge gas can be circulated through the inner space.

[This] Here, the introducing process introduces gas via a first air vent formed in the panel, and the evacuating process evacuates gas via a second air vent formed in the panel. [Performing the introducing process together with the evacuating process enables discharge to be produced by applying the required voltage to the discharge electrodes while discharge gas is continuously through the inner space.]

Please delete the second and third paragraphs on page 5.

The fourth paragraph on page 5 has been amended as follows:

[The] Consequently, the PDP subject to the aging process has the following structure. A plurality of discharge spaces are formed by arranging a plurality of partitions to divide up the inner space between the front plate and the back plate, and a sealing glass layer for sealing the panel is included between the perimeters of the front plate and the back plate. Then a first space connected to the discharge spaces formed by the plurality of partitions is formed between first ends of the plurality of partitions and the sealing glass layer, and a second space connected to the discharge spaces is formed between second ends of the plurality of partitions and the sealing glass layer.

The third paragraph on page 8 has been amended as follows:

[This kind of structure has a plurality of gas passages leading from the first space to the second space, and is designed so that discharge gas can flow more freely into gas passages being

used as discharge spaces than into other gas passages.] In this kind of structure, discharge gas mainly flows through a plurality of gas passages leading from the first to the second space. This prevents deterioration in the phosphors during the aging process.

Please delete the fourth paragraph on page 8.

The fifth paragraph on page 8 has been amended as follows:

The partial pressure of steam contained in the [dry gas should preferably be 15 torr or less. If achievable, the partial pressure should be lowered] discharge gas introduced into the inner space should preferably be 10 torr or less, 5 torr or less, 1 torr or less or even 0.1 torr or less.

Please delete the sixth paragraph on page 8.

The first paragraph on page 9 has been amended as follows:

In order to achieve the above object, a PDP manufacturing process is further performed in the following way. First, a front plate and a back plate, on at least one of which discharge electrodes have been arranged and on at least one of whose inner surfaces a phosphor layer has been formed are sealed together so that an inner space is formed between them. Then a heating process for heating phosphors in the phosphor layer is performed after the aging process has been completed. This heating process enables the characteristics of the phosphors to be restored.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-110 have been cancelled.

Claims 111-130 have been added.